



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 448
RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 18, 2015

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of H.B. 448 which adds
3 near-deaths and suicides to the types of multidisciplinary reviews conducted through the
4 Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR) process. H.B. 448 also mandates the Department to
5 conduct DVFRs by deleting “may” conduct to “shall” conduct these reviews. The purpose of the
6 DVFR is to prevent the incidence of domestic violence fatalities in Hawaii.

7 Adding near-deaths and suicides will give the Department a larger number of domestic violence
8 incidences to review, increasing the ability to learn more about events leading up to a domestic
9 violence fatality and thereby providing additional supports and recommendations for systems
10 change and improvements. The Department proposes amendments to page 2, lines 6 through 9.

11 **Offered Amendments:** §321-473 (b) Members of the domestic violence fatality review
12 team, shall work to develop procedures related to near-deaths resulting from intimate
13 partner assaults to obtain information relating to near-deaths resulting from intimate
14 partner violence.

15 This should provide for all Team members to engage in the development of procedures.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



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February 17, 2015

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, HB 448, Relating to Domestic Violence

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to express my support for HB 448, which would amend our domestic violence fatality review panel statute to include suicides and near deaths. This information, if captured, would help create a clearer picture of how extensive domestic violence related near deaths and suicides are in our state.

This bill would additionally strengthen our existing statute and would provide more accountability by adding a reporting component. Finally, HB 448 would allow for more streamlined information gathering by allowing for cross-agency collaboration with domestic violence service providers, and relevant state and county agencies.

The Commission supports HB 448 and respectfully urges this Committee to pass HB 448.



TO: Chair Della Au Belatti
Vice Chair Richard Creagan
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A

RE: HB 448 Support with Comments

Aloha. And thank you for your consideration of this testimony. It is our responsibility to urge you to examine the community needs related to addressing domestic violence, one of our complex and costly community problems with broad impact.

As a member of the Fatality Review team since its inception and great interest in efforts underway across the country, we are anxious that Hawaii's work reviewing weaknesses and challenges in our system that end in death or other serious injury be improved. The Fatality Review Team has not had the leadership it needed nor the investment necessary to bring the work to a meaningful place. Thus, statute to motivate timely reviews is a welcome initiative.

Further, the work that has been undertaken and completed thus far has not been circulated for system wide consideration or change to system practice. The section in this Bill which refers directly to compilation and use of information collected appears necessary.

Please accept this one suggestion for language (page 2, line 6):

(b)Members of the fatality review team, shall work to develop procedures related to near deaths- resulting from intimate partner assaults and the department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the relevant state agencies and branches of government and county agencies to obtain the information relating to near-deaths resulting from intimate partner violence.

This legislation is another attempt to strengthen the work, and yield outcomes that can be beneficial to the community, the system and to practitioners as they reflect on the best ways to approach their work. Thank you for favorable action on this Bill.

creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 10:22 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB448 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM

HB448

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments: I submitted testimony to the HLT testimony email. Please check. Mahalo, Ann S. Freed

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February 18, 2015

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Health

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: HB 448 Relating to Domestic Violence
Hearing: Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 8:30 a.m., Room 329

Position: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support on HB 448 Relating to Domestic Violence which requires the Department of Health to conduct reviews of domestic violence fatalities, near-deaths, and suicides.

Domestic violence is a serious concern in our community. Its results may be catastrophic for victims, survivors, and their families. By requiring the review of fatalities, near-deaths, and suicides, valuable information and data will be gathered which will help our community improve systems, policies, and procedures, which will then prevent domestic violence.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. It is because of this mission that we respectfully request that the committee pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 329**

Testimony in Support for HB448, Relating to Domestic Violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** for HB448, which requires the Department of Health to conduct reviews of domestic violence fatalities, near-deaths and suicides, and requires reviews to commence within one year. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including survivors of domestic violence.

In Hawaii, it is estimated that about 132,000 adults (15%) experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. However, only a few of those adults reported such experience to authorities, and even fewer resulted in fatalities. The fatality review process has helped our community to better understand the circumstances regarding domestic violence. By expanding fatality reviews to include near-deaths, as well as suicides, this bill will further increase our understanding of domestic violence, and will provide more robust feedback to impact both system and institutional changes.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly supports HB448, and urges you to pass this bill out of committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.